

Serial No. 09/522,162
Art Unit No. 3623

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending in the patent application. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner has finally rejected Claims 1-5 and 7-11 and has indicated that Claims 6 and 12 would be allowed if rewritten in independent format.

By this amendment, Applicants herein amend Claims 6 and 12 to place them in independent format, including all of the limitations of Claims 1 and 11 from which they had, respectively, depended. In addition, the dependency of each of Claims 2-5 and 7-10 has been changed to now depend from the allowable Claim 6. Similarly, parallel Claims 13-18 have been added to depend from allowable Claim 12. No further filing fee is required for the submission of the additional dependent claims, since the total number of claims does not exceed 20.

Applicants have canceled the non-allowed claims, without prejudice, so that those claims can be pursued in a divisional patent application.

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Applicants believe that the submitted amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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